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SAL 01, SP 02, SS 35, GPM 03, SC 01, NSC 10, RSC 01, P 04, INR 07, IO 21,
SAH 03, AID 30, L 03, H 02, /143 W

P R 021250Z SEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6086
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4069
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 865
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANNE 2380

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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SUBJECT: NATIONAL ELECTIONS

1. TODAY'S VERNACULAR PRESS AS WELL AS SAIGON RADIO HAVE GIVEN PUBLICITY TO RECENT ORDER ISSUED BY VIETNAMESE JOINT GENERAL STAFF TO ALL UNITS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM DEALING WITH THE SUBJECT OF MILITARY PERSONNEL HOLDING TWO VOTING CARDS. ORDER READS IN PART "BECAUSE OF A LACK OF COOPERATION BETWEEN ADMINISTRATIVE MILITARY AUTHORITIES, A MILITARY NAM MAY HAVE TWO VOTING CARDS -- ONE ISSUED BY HIS

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UNIT AND THE OTHER BY THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANS ON PRESENTATION OF THE FAMILY CESUS CARD. TO AVOID DISTRORTIONS AND CLAIMS, UNIT COMMANDERS ARE INSTRUCTED TO COLLECT THE VOTING CARDS ISSUED BY ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANS AND RETURN THEM TO THOSE ORGANS. MILITARY VOTERS ARE ALLOWED TO USE ONLY THE VOTING

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CARDS ISSUED BY THEIR UNITS AND VOTE ONLY AT THEIR UNIT'S VOTING CENTERS." ORDER GOES ON TO CITE LEGAL PENALTIES FOR USE OF MULTIPLE VOTING CARDS OF FINE OF BETWEEN 1,000 AND 20,000 PIASTERS AND IMPRISONMENT OF BETWEEN ONE MONTH AND ONE YEAR. ORDER ADDS THAT IF VIOLATORS ARE MILITARY PERSONNEL OR CIVIL FUNCTIONARIES, PENALTIES WILL BE DOUBLED. IN ADDITION, MILITARY VIOLATORS WILL FACE MILITARY COURT.
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